

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, DA, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY PRIME MINISTER
POUL HARTLING AUGUST 9. ENGLISH TRANSLATION
WAS PROVIDED BY MFA.

QUOTE. IN MANY WAYS, THE DECISION OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO
RESIGN MUST BE VIEWED WITH RELIEF. THE PRESIDENT'S
DECISION SPARES THE UNITED STATES THE PAINFUL PROCEEDINGS
OF IMPEACHMENT AND WAS PROBABLY THE BEST AND MOST
DIGNIFIED RECOURSE OPEN TO HIM IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOP-
MENTS IN THE WATERGATE AFFAIR.

DURING THE FIVE-AND-A-HALF YEARS PRESIDENT NIXON
WAS IN OFFICE, CRUCIAL DEVELOPMENTS TOOK PLACE IN WORLD
POLITICS.

DURING HIS TENURE THE UNITED STATES WITHDREW FROM
THE WAR IN VIETNAM. DURING HIS TENURE, ALSO, THE POLICY
OF DETENTE GAINED A FIRM FOOTHOLD IN THE FORM OF DIRECT
CONTACTS WITH BOTH MOSCOW AND PEKING. DURING HIS
TENURE, TOO, THE UNITED STATES DROPPED ITS OPPOSITION
TO CHINA'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

AND IN HIS TIME, ALSO, THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES
OF THE UNITED STATES, HOPE BURGEONED FOR A PEACEFUL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

IN DENMARK WE HAVE WATCHED THESE LANDMARK EVENTS
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IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS WITH SATISFACTION AND ASSENT,

AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED TODAY WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON RESIGNS.

IT SHOULD ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT THE RECENT EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE PROVED THAT AMERICA IS AN OPEN SOCIETY. ONLY IN A FREE SOCIETY WITH A FREE PRESS AND A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE IS IT POSSIBLE TO EXPERIENCE A POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS THE WOULD HAS JUST WITNESSED.

MORALITY IS A SALIENT FEATURE OF AMERICAN POLITICS. HOWEVER DIFFICULT IT MUST BE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO ACCUSE THEIR OWN DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT, THIS STEP DID BECOME INEVITABLE WHEN BASIC PRINCIPLES WERE CHALLENGED. THE LAW IS ABOVE ALL. WITHOUT RESPECT OF PERSONS. THAT IS HOW IT SHOULD BE IN A DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY GOVERNED BY LAW, EVEN IF THE OUTCOME MEANT A GRAVE PERSONAL TRAGEDY FOR RICHARD NIXON.

MAY I CONCLUDE BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE NUMEROUS POSITIVE ASPECTS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH HAVE BEEN IN EVIDENCE DURING PRESIDENT NIXON'S TERM IN OFFICE, MAY BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE. END QUOTE.

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